

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) A method for drying a paper web comprising:

providing a dryer having a first dryer section and a second dryer section;

providing a supply air stream;

distributing the supply air stream to said first dryer section and said second dryer section;

contacting a relatively wet paper web with the supply air stream within said first dryer section at an elevated temperature to form a relatively dry paper web;

contacting the relatively dry paper web with the supply air stream within said second dryer section at a reduced temperature in comparison to said elevated temperature; and selecting from one or both of the following steps:

i) combining a first stream of air with said supply air stream to provide said elevated temperature within said first dryer section; and

ii) combining a second stream of air with said supply air stream to provide said reduced temperature within said second dryer section.

24. (Original) A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said elevated temperature is provided by combining said first stream of air with said supply air stream.

25. (Original) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein said elevated temperature decreases within said first dryer section.

26. (Original) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein said elevated temperature increases within said first dryer section.

27. (Original) A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said reduced temperature is provided by combining said second stream of air with said supply air stream.

28. (Original) A method as defined in claim 27, wherein said reduced temperature decreases within said second dryer section.

29. (Original) A method as defined in claim 27, wherein said reduced temperature increases within said second dryer section.

30. (Original) A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said elevated temperature ranges from about 400°F to about 500°F and said reduced temperature ranges from about 300°F to about 400°F.

31. (Original) A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said elevated temperature ranges from about 450°F to about 500°F.

32. (Original) A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said reduced temperature ranges from about 300°F to about 350°F.

33. (Original) A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said dryer is a through-dryer.

34. (New) A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said relatively wet paper web has a solids consistency between about 20% to about 40%.

35. (New) A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said relatively dry paper web has a solids consistency between about 45% to about 70%.

36. (New) A method for drying a paper web comprising:

providing a through-dryer having a first dryer section and a second dryer section;
providing a supply air stream;
distributing the supply air stream to said first dryer section and said second dryer section;

contacting a relatively wet paper web with the supply air stream within said first dryer section at an elevated temperature of from about 400°F to about 500°F to form a relatively dry paper web;

contacting the relatively dry paper web with the supply air stream within said second dryer section at a reduced temperature of from about 300°F to about 400°F; and

selecting from one or both of the following steps:

i) combining a first stream of air with said supply air stream to provide said elevated temperature within said first dryer section; and

ii) combining a second stream of air with said supply air stream to provide said reduced temperature within said second dryer section.

37. (New) A method as defined in claim 36, wherein said elevated temperature is provided by combining said first stream of air with said supply air stream.

38. (New) A method as defined in claim 37, wherein said elevated temperature decreases within said first dryer section.

39. (New) A method as defined in claim 37, wherein said elevated temperature increases within said first dryer section.

40. (New) A method as defined in claim 36, wherein said reduced temperature is provided by combining said second stream of air with said supply air stream.

41. (New) A method as defined in claim 40, wherein said reduced temperature decreases within said second dryer section.

42. (New) A method as defined in claim 40, wherein said reduced temperature increases within said second dryer section.

43. (New) A method as defined in claim 36, wherein said elevated temperature ranges from about 450°F to about 500°F.

44. (New) A method as defined in claim 36, wherein said reduced temperature ranges from about 300°F to about 350°F.

45. (New) A method for drying a paper web comprising:
providing a through-dryer having a first dryer section and a second dryer section;
providing a supply air stream;
distributing the supply air stream to said first dryer section and said second dryer section;

contacting a relatively wet paper web having a solids consistency of between about 20% to about 40% with the supply air stream within said first dryer section at an elevated temperature to form a relatively dry paper web;

contacting the relatively dry paper web with the supply air stream within said second dryer section at a reduced temperature in comparison to said elevated temperature; and

selecting from one or both of the following steps:

i) combining a first stream of air with said supply air stream to provide said elevated temperature within said first dryer section; and

ii) combining a second stream of air with said supply air stream to provide said reduced temperature within said second dryer section.

46. (New) A method as defined in claim 45, wherein said elevated temperature is provided by combining said first stream of air with said supply air stream.

47. (New) A method as defined in claim 46, wherein said elevated temperature decreases within said first dryer section.

48. (New) A method as defined in claim 46, wherein said elevated temperature increases within said first dryer section.

49. (New) A method as defined in claim 45, wherein said reduced temperature is provided by combining said second stream of air with said supply air stream.

50. (New) A method as defined in claim 49, wherein said reduced temperature decreases within said second dryer section.

51. (New) A method as defined in claim 49, wherein said reduced temperature increases within said second dryer section.

52. (New) A method as defined in claim 45, wherein said elevated temperature ranges from about 400°F to about 500°F and said reduced temperature ranges from about 300°F to about 400°F.

53. (New) A method as defined in claim 45, wherein said elevated temperature ranges from about 450°F to about 500°F.

54. (New) A method as defined in claim 45, wherein said reduced temperature ranges from about 300°F to about 350°F.

55. (New) A method as defined in claim 45, wherein said relatively dry paper web has a solids consistency between about 45% to about 70%.